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## **Illinois/Chicago Launch 2006 Screenwriting Competition Applications Available Now**

CHICAGO – The Chicago Film Office and the Illinois Film Office have once again teamed up to launch the biennial Illinois/Chicago (IC) Screenwriting Competition, offering aspiring Illinois screenwriters the opportunity to showcase their talents to the motion picture industry. Mayor Richard M. Daley and Governor Rod R. Blagojevich announced the competition.

“While the film industry is proving to be a real force of growth in the Illinois economy, we’re only scratching the surface of its enormous potential. Everyone knows Illinois offers tremendous locations and local expertise, but this competition is helping showcase the dynamic screenwriting talent we have here as well. Supporting this writing competition is an excellent vehicle to provide our aspiring screenwriters with the opportunity they richly deserve and to continue distinguishing Illinois as a hotbed of moviemaking talent,” said Governor Rod R. Blagojevich.

“The City of Chicago has long fostered a creative environment and in recent years, our own writers have contributed greatly to the cinema,” said Mayor Richard M. Daley. “This competition provides a wonderful opportunity to local talent which will serve to keep Chicago as a vital player in the film industry.”

Writers must submit an original screenplay that has not been previously produced or sold, but has been copyrighted or registered. A panel that includes local and national film industry professionals will judge the entries. Each winner will receive a cash prize and their screenplay will be submitted to a select group of studio executives and producers. A formal announcement will be made later in the year.

The competition is open to residents of the state of Illinois, age 18 or older. Applications are available by contacting the IC Competition hotline, 312-814-8711 or log on to the Chicago Film Office website, [www.cityofchicago.org/filmoffice](http://www.cityofchicago.org/filmoffice) or the Illinois Film Office website at [www.filmillinois.state.il.us](http://www.filmillinois.state.il.us). The IC Competition began accepting scripts Monday, January 9, 2006. Entry deadline is April 17, 2006.

The Illinois/Chicago Competition began in 1994 and is designed to encourage and display local writing talent as well as highlight the vast array of settings provided by Chicago and the state as backgrounds for

feature-length films. Approximately 300 scripts were submitted in the 2004 competition.